

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**VIRGINIA**  
**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**  
**IRRIGATION WATER CONVEYANCE**  
**HIGH-PRESSURE, UNDERGROUND, PLASTIC**  
**CODE 430DD**

Land Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ SWCD \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

A properly operated and maintained irrigation water conveyance pipeline system is an asset to the farm. This system was designed and installed to convey water in an irrigation system. Estimated life span of this installation is at least \_\_\_\_\_ years. The life of this system can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program includes:

- All pipelines, check, pressure-relief, air-release, gate, and other valves and thrust blocks shall be maintained at their post-construction condition. Repairs must be made immediately.
- Maintain the design depth of cover over the pipe system. All settlement or cracks in the soil should be investigated to determine their cause and immediately repaired. Excessive settlement or voids in the line present a hazard to livestock and should be backfilled and compacted immediately.
- Avoid travel by heavy equipment over pipelines when the soil is saturated except at designed crossings. Limit traffic to sections that were designed for traffic loads. Avoid any sub-soiling operation that may disturb or destroy the pipeline.
- Inspect and test valves, pressure regulators, pumps, switches and other appurtenances regularly to ensure proper operation. Open and close valves slowly to prevent excessive water hammer.
- Check operating pressures often; a pressure drop (or rise) may indicate problems. Repair or replace damaged gauges.
- Check and assure proper operation of backflow protection devices.
- Conduct routine maintenance of all mechanical components in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Repair or replace components as necessary.

- Maintain erosion protection at outlets.
- Drain and/or provide for cold weather operation of the system.
- Remove all foreign debris, minerals, algae and other materials that may hinder system operation.
- Maintain all outlets, rodent guards, inlets and access man-holes in good operating condition.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Fertilize as needed to maintain a uniform vigorous stand. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents and/or burrowing animals that have damaged or can potentially damage any part of the system. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to any outlets and appurtenances.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:\_\_\_\_\_

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